

~~a second process of removing or denaturalizing a part of said deposit deposited onto the surface of said material to be marked by irradiating with a laser beam of a second laser power while scanning with the laser beam;~~

~~wherein patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols are formed on said material to be marked.~~

~~2. (Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 1, wherein laser power of the first laser power is greater per unit area than laser power of the second laser power.~~

~~3. (Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 1, wherein the deposit is subject to direct irradiation in the second process without passing the laser beam through the materials to be marked.~~

~~4. (Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 1, wherein the deposit caused to degenerate by irradiation by said second laser power is changed in color by heating.~~

~~5. (Amended) A method for marking materials, in which marking material and materials to be marked consist of a light transparent body or a laser transmittive body, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~forming patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols on said material to be marked by placing a surface of said material to be marked and a surface of said marking material together with a desired gap therebetween;~~

~~vaporizing said marking material by irradiating through said material to be marked with a laser beam while scanning with the laser beam; and~~

depositing a deposit vaporized from said marking material onto a predetermined portion of the material to be marked;

wherein said patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols are formed by reacting gas existing in said desired gap with the vaporized marking material due to evaporation of said marking material by said laser beam and a reaction product deposited onto the predetermined portion of the material to be marked.

6. (Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 5, wherein the gas existing in said desired gap is one of oxygen, nitrogen or both.

7. (Amended) A method for marking materials according to either claim 1 or 5, wherein said gap is between 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Please cancel Claim 8.

9. (Amended) A marking material for use in either claim 1 or 5, wherein the marking material used is a metal or a compound, alloy or intermetallic thereof.

10. (Amended) A marking material of claim 9, wherein a thin film formed on a surface of the light transparent body or the laser transmittive body is of a thickness of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

12. (Amended) A marking material for use in either claim 1 or 5, wherein the marking material is either a martensite or a ferrite stainless steel, or a carbon steel, or a steel with a carbon content of 0.25% or less.

Sub 4  
13. (Amended) A marking material according to claim 11, wherein the marking material is a thin film formed on a surface of the light transparent body or the laser transmittive body.

14. (Amended) A marking material according to claim 13, wherein a thickness of said thin film is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

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15. (Amended) A marking material according to claim 9, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

16. (New) A marking material according to claim 12, wherein the marking material is a thin film formed on a surface of the light transparent body or the laser transmittive body.

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17. (New) A marking material according to claim 16, wherein a thickness of said thin film is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

18. (New) A marking material according to claim 10, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

19. (New) A marking material according to claim 11, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

20. (New) A marking material according to claim 12, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

21. (New) A marking material according to claim 13, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

22. (New) A marking material according to claim 14, wherein the pattern formed is QR Code, Data Code, Veri Code, a two-dimensional code, or a bar code.

~~23. (New) A marking material according to claim 10 wherein the thickness is 0.1 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

~~24. (New) A marking material according to claim 14 wherein the thickness is 0.1 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

~~25. (New) A marking material according to claim 17 wherein the thickness is 0.1 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .~~

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#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 were originally filed in this application. By this Amendment, the applicants amend Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-15, cancel Claim 8, leave Claim 11 unamended, and add new Claims 16-25. Thus, 24 claims are now in this application for reconsideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness; Claims 13-15 were found objectionable under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) for being in improper multiply dependent form; Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35